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Resolution 1982-08-12 Sale of Public Lands

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports enactment of legislation to levy an 11 percent excise tax on components of hand-loaded ammunition and to earmark the proceeds for Pittman-Robertson Program purposes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Association requests the Congress and the Administration to develop and enact legislation to redirect existing tariff receipts on imported sporting arms, ammunition, components of hand-loaded ammunition, archery equipment and related items into the Pittman-Robertson Program.

Resolution No. 8

Sale of Public Lands

WHEREAS, approximately 744 million acres of public lands and waters in the United States allow the public access for purposes of hunting, fishing, trapping, observation and other aspects of wildlife-centered recreation;

WHEREAS, in addition to timber, grazing, water, minerals, oil and gas and other natural resources, these lands provide free access and are enjoyed for camping, sightseeing, picnicking, hiking, rock hounding and other outdoor recreational activities by millions of people;

WHEREAS, in more recent times it has been the intent of the people through Congress to retain most of these lands for the enjoyment of future generations;

WHEREAS, the present Administration is proposing to produce revenue for the federal treasury by disposing, through sale, "unneeded public lands and waters" — most of which are of significant value for wildlife or fish habitat and critical for hunting and fishing access and other outdoor recreational pursuits;

WHEREAS, apparently the Administration does not intend to solicit public opinion regarding these disposal plans through environmental impact statements or other review procedures, in violation of NEPA and the intent of Congress;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies opposes the sale of these public lands or disposal of water rights and any possible trading, exchanging or other disposal of public lands and/or waters until a determination of their fish, wildlife, historical, other outdoor recreational values and other benefits and losses have been made on a site-by-site basis;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that public lands may be transferred to private ownership only if it is determined that they have no significant fish, wildlife, historical or recreational values or similar benefits and that all other public lands shall continue to be retained and managed in accordance with applicable federal laws, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the National Forest Management Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all disposal of federally-owned lands should be planned in consultation with, and with full opportunity for input of information from, the affected states.